Contracts for collection and stocking of royalties.

204. **MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the coupes which were auctioned this year (1105) and last year (1104) in the Pattanapuram taluk for the collection and stocking of royalties without notification in the Gazette; and

(*b*) the persons to whom such coupes were given?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No coupes were sold in auction either in 1104 or in 1105 in the Pattanapuram taluk for the collection of royalties.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this question does not arise.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether any coupes have been given to contractors without notification in the Gazette when tenders are invited and are not received?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No coupes were sold in auction. That is stated in the answer.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I ask whether the Government can assure me on the point?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is a general statement for a particular locality.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I ask whether no coupes were hitherto given to contractors without notification in the Gazette?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No. For these two years it was not done, in that taluk.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether the same assurance can be given with respect to the other taluks also?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: How does that arise as a supplementary question, Mr. Kesava Pillai?

Women Offenders in Police Lock-ups.

205. **MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to give due consideration to, and to take steps to better the provision made for, women offenders confined in Police lock-ups?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes. The question of bettering existing conditions where they are found to be not satisfactory will be considered.

Bridge across the Masupatti river.

206. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to the answer to question No. 39 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd December 1927, *re* bridge across the Masupatti river (Page 103, Vol. XII of the Council Proceedings), will the Government be pleased to state why the bridge has not yet (8-1-1930) been restored for traffic?

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